

YOUR FIRST CHAPTER / STILLFIELD STUDIO

Welcome to Stillfield

A fictional onboarding plan for a small design studio. Names, schedules and milestones are invented.

Morgan Vale

Product designer

Start: 2026-10-12 · Europe/London



WHAT THIS ROLE OWNS

- Document the reasoning behind a small design decision.
- Learn the team's research and review habits.
- Build a first prototype with a clear acceptance condition.

A GENTLE BEGINNING

Find your footing.

☐ **Meet your buddy**

Ask how the team shares work in progress.

hello · Jamie Reed · Monday 09:30–10:00

Due: 2026-10-12 · Europe/London

Complete when: You know where to ask a day-to-day question.

☐ **Review the role brief**

Read the supplied responsibility boundaries with your manager.

context · Alex Rowan · Monday 11:00–11:30

Due: 2026-10-12 · Europe/London

Complete when: One open scope question is recorded.

LEARN THE SHAPE OF THE TEAM

Build a little context each day.

☐ **Observe a research review**

Notice how the team distinguishes observation from interpretation.

observe · Alex Rowan · Wednesday team review

Due: 2026-10-14 · Europe/London

Complete when: Write one observation and one question.

☐ **Map the working rhythm**

Record the supplied review and handoff rituals.

map · Jamie Reed · Friday check-in

Due: 2026-10-16 · Europe/London

Complete when: Your buddy confirms the map is accurate.

You do not have to figure it out alone.

Your buddy: Jamie Reed

Alex Rowan

Design manager

Scope, priorities and milestone reviews.

Contact: Fictional studio directory / Alex

Jamie Reed

Onboarding buddy

Questions about tools, rituals and the first week.

Contact: Fictional studio directory / Jamie

Robin Elm

Studio operations

Equipment and account access.

Contact: Fictional studio directory / Robin

Get the essentials in place.

Mark completion only after the supplied acceptance condition is met.

☐

Confirm the equipment checklist

Use the studio's approved handover record.

equipment · Robin Elm · First morning

Due: 2026-10-12 · Europe/London

Complete when: The agreed equipment is acknowledged.

☐

Confirm the required accounts

Follow the supplied access process; do not put credentials in this guide.

accounts · Robin Elm · First day

Due: 2026-10-12 · Europe/London

Complete when: You can access the approved project spaces.

First complete: equipment

Learn by doing something small.

☐

Make a small prototype

Use the supplied exercise brief and document one design choice.

prototype · Alex Rowan · First two weeks

Due: 2026-10-23 · Europe/London

Complete when: The prototype answers the exercise question.

First complete: accounts

☐

Ask for a focused review

Invite feedback against the exercise acceptance condition.

review · Jamie Reed · After the prototype

Due: 2026-10-26 · Europe/London

Complete when: Record feedback and one next action.

First complete: prototype

A CHECKPOINT, NOT AN INFERRED DEADLINE

30

DAYS

Understand the working system

Explain the team's review flow and complete one bounded design exercise.

Evidence to bring

A short workflow map and a reviewed prototype.

Review date: 2026-11-11 · Europe/London
Reviewer: Alex Rowan

LINKED TASKS

- map · Map the working rhythm
- prototype · Make a small prototype

A CHECKPOINT, NOT AN INFERRED DEADLINE

60

DAYS

Own a small design decision

Take a supplied problem through research review and prototype feedback.

Evidence to bring

A decision note linking observations to the chosen next step.

Review date: 2026-12-11 · Europe/London
Reviewer: Alex Rowan

LINKED TASKS

- review · Ask for a focused review

A CHECKPOINT, NOT AN INFERRED DEADLINE

90

DAYS

Make the next handoff clear

Deliver a bounded design task with explicit acceptance and open questions.

Evidence to bring

A peer can explain the design's current limits from the handoff.

Review date: 2027-01-10 · Europe/London
Reviewer: Alex Rowan

LINKED TASKS

- ready · Agree the next independent task

You are set when...

Your manager confirms the agreed evidence. Checking a box here does not update an HR system.

☐

Agree the next independent task

Review readiness with the manager.

ready · Alex Rowan · 30-day review

Due: 2026-11-11 · Europe/London

Complete when: The next task has an owner, scope and acceptance condition.

First complete: review

YOUR REFERENCE SHELF

handbook

Fictional studio handbook · link not supplied

Synthetic reference item; replace with an approved internal resource.

exercise

First prototype exercise · link not supplied

Original demonstration brief, supplied separately by the fictional manager.